

CREATIVE

INDUSTRIES

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August 24, 2001

Ms. Geraldine A. June
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-822)
Food and Drug Administration
200 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20204

Dear Ms. June,

We are a small (\$1-\$1.5 million dollar) polystyrene foam egg carton manufacture in the Chicago area. We are preparing to make the necessary changes for the required *safe handling instructions* message, which will be printed on all cartons. We have been advised by the UEP that we can request a wavier, which allows us to print this message on the inside lid of each carton.

We are requesting to receive this wavier from The Food and Drug Administration. There are two key reasons for this request. First, the financial burden associated with changing all of the printing plates could cost us between \$15,000 - \$20,000. For a business our size, this is a significant amount. Secondly, our primary competitor, Dolco Packaging, has already received this waiver. We would be at a serious competitive disadvantage if we could not provide our customers with the same printed carton. Our largest account (Rose Acre Farms) has already advised us that they would not accept cartons from us with different artwork.

In addition to these issues, we also feel that this message when printed on the inlid will be clearly seen by the consumer. Each time eggs are used, the carton is opened up and the information is clearly presented. There would be no advantage in getting this information to the consumer by having it on the outside cover instead of the inlid.

We appreciate your assistance and prompt response to this wavier request.

Sincerely,



Jack Eisenberg
VP Sales & Marketing

Cc: Steve Morton
Roger Christensen